

## OFFICERS DENY TRIBUNE STORY

Editors Refuse to Prove or  
Disprove Smirch on Wom-  
an's Character.

Absolute denial of the allegations set forth in an article appearing in the South Bend Tribune on July 18 referring to Policemen Earl Parker and William Miller and Policewoman Minnie Evans as joy-riders, was the consensus of the testimony of the officers at a meeting of the board of public safety yesterday afternoon.

During the morning session the Tribune staff was placed on the witness stand in an effort to make them divulge the name of the person, or the source from which they got the material for their article, which accused the three guardians of the peace of conduct, which if proven true, would be serious enough to warrant their dismissal from the force.

No evidence of any kind to substantiate their story was produced by the five witnesses called. All were mute when the questions began to get down to the gist of the subject. After the hearing adjourned it was intimated that the matter might be taken to the circuit court, the publishers being unwilling to give proof of their allegations.

### Parker Examined.

Officer Earl Parker, for eight years a member of the South Bend police department, was the first of the officers to be examined. Concerning his actions that night the policeman said:

"On the night of July 18, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Trudelle brought a girl prisoner to the captain's office and left there at 11:55 to go to the county jail in the police patrol. Officer Miller and I accompanied them. I sat in the front seat as is the custom. When we had delivered the girl to the authorities at the jail, Mrs. Evans glanced at her watch and remarked that it was two minutes to twelve.

"She called Mrs. Trudelle and we got into the patrol, drove to the corner of Jefferson and Michigan sts., where Mrs. Trudelle was to catch a car for her home.

"The car which Mrs. Evans would have taken to go home had stopped running and when we had arrived at the street car station I said to Miller, 'I guess we will have to take Mrs. Evans home.' That is the custom when the policewomen are out after the cars have stopped running. Miller turned and said, 'Where do you go,' addressing Mrs. Evans. Then we took the policewoman home."

### Speed Twenty Miles.

Then Atty. Seebirt asked Parker at what speed was the machine going.

"At no time during the entire trip did we go faster than 20 miles an hour. The distance is about 17 or 18 blocks and it took eight or nine minutes to make the trip."

The city attorney asked the officer if the car, as mentioned in the Tribune story, nearly turned over while rounding a corner. The policeman's response was an emphatic "No sir, it did not."

Parker further said that the accident to the machine, a broken rear axle, was repaired in 15 minutes and that there was an extra axle in the machine at the time but he and Miller did not know it. The extra axle is carried because of the frequency of such accidents.

Officer William P. Miller was the next witness. His story corresponded with that of his fellow policeman in every detail. He was asked if there was any improper or boisterous conduct during the ride and answered that at no time was there such conduct, adding that except for his inquiry to Mrs. Evans as to where she went, meaning in what direction—he did not address her during the ride.

### Mrs. Evans On Stand.

Mrs. Minnie Evans was then called upon and gave practically the same testimony as the policemen. Mrs. Trudelle was also brought before the board and said that she had left the machine at Jefferson and Michigan, boarded a car and returned home.

At 4:50 o'clock Officer William Cassidy, former chief of detectives, was summoned. He said that he had seen the car as it passed down Michigan st. and thought that it was going at about 25 miles an hour. He did not see Mrs. Evans in the machine and paid no attention to the patrol after it had passed.

City Atty. Seebirt conducted the examination and, after F. A. Miller, R. H. Horst, L. E. McCormack, R. M. Hutchinson and R. H. Downey had been sworn in, Seebirt asked them if they had written, knew who had written, or had been told by anyone that he wrote the story with which the board was concerned. To all of these questions, A. G. Graham, attorney for the publishers, objected, and the witnesses refused to answer upon advice of counsel. When the newspaper men were asked if they had been told who wrote the article, Graham's objection was based upon the fact that had anyone so told them, it would have been hearsay. Graham further contended that the hearing was a "fishing expedition for the purpose of embarrassing the publication and not to find facts against the police officers."

### REPORTED IMPROVED.

Mrs. Roy Cussans of Edwardsburg, Mich., who is confined at Epworth hospital following an automobile accident Wednesday night, was reported as considerably improved Friday night. She is conscious most of the time now and is able to talk.

Chile will this year spend \$3,650,000 on new public school buildings.

*The members of the South Bend Country Club will have one of the finest resorts in the middle west. Preserve this chart and show it to your friends.*

